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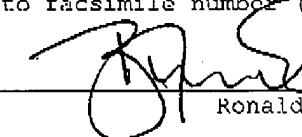
FEB 05 2007

PATENT
NON-FINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/534,491 Confirmation No. 4972
Applicant : Toshiaki MASUDA et al.
Filed : May 10, 2005
TC/A.U. : 3728
Examiner : Luan K. Bui
Dkt. No. : NPR-170
Cust. No. : 20374

I hereby certify that this paper is being
facsimile transmitted on February 5, 2007, to
the United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Ronald J. Kubovcik

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 3, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 5, 2007

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2006. A petition for a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

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